

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 7/2/2015

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India

Post: New Delhi

Success Story - Old Hickory to New Delhi

Report Categories:

Wood Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Export Accomplishments - Other

Promotion Opportunities

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Report Highlights:

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in India in conjunction with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) facilitated the export of U.S.-origin hickory logs from Virginia (Zip Code: 23231). The value of the trial shipment was \$9,000.

General Information:

On Friday, May 29, 2015, the India representative for the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) alerted FAS Mumbai that a U.S. exporter was having difficulty obtaining the necessary phytosanitary certificate to accompany a trial shipment of U.S.-origin hickory logs. The exporter had twice applied for the phytosanitary certificate and was turned down each time by USDA officials. The exporter told their New Delhi-based Indian importer that they would not be able to ship the hickory and, in turn, the importer alerted the in-country AHEC representative of the problem. Owing to good market and policy intelligence and a continued and trusted presence in the country, AHEC, FAS, and APHIS representatives were able to quickly resolve the problem and facilitate trade.

As a species, hickory, both logs and kiln-dried lumber, do not require an import permit for entry into India as the materials are classified under Schedule VII of the nation's Plant Quarantine Order. APHIS's guidance for hickory products had indicated that an import permit was necessary before a phytosanitary certificate could be issued. AHEC's concern was whether APHIS wanted kiln-dried hickory lumber to also have an import permit before a phytosanitary certificate could be issued. This was not the case as the hickory products (both logs and lumber) can be given necessary phytosanitary treatments and issued the corresponding phytosanitary certificates without an import permit.

FAS Mumbai immediately alerted APHIS officers in Riverdale and APHIS staff in New Delhi. APHIS immediately took action and updated their system guidance to enable a phytosanitary certificate to be issued for hickory logs and, soon thereafter, kiln-dried lumber without an import permit.

The American hickory log exporter reapplied for the phytosanitary certificate to accompany his products and was issued the required documentation by APHIS in time for their shipment to be loaded and sent to India without incurring additional delays or charges.